

WHEREAS, these programs are fundamental to addressing the needs of at-risk students, eliminating the achievement gap, reducing the State's persistently high dropout rate, increasing college enrollments, and meeting other educational challenges; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 1473, "The 2007 Appropriations Act," under consideration by the House and Senate has not been passed; and

WHEREAS, while the General Assembly continues working to ratify a final budget I can approve, the school year for the majority of North Carolina's children is about to begin and preplanning, hiring, and facilities preparation must take place.

NOW THEREFORE, in light of the factual circumstances set forth above, including the decision in *Leandro*, and under the legal authority vested in me as Governor by Article I, Section 15 of the Constitution of North Carolina (which states that "The people have a right to the privilege of education, and it is the duty of the State to guard and maintain that right."), Article III of the Constitution of North Carolina, and N.C.G.S. §143C-6-4, I hereby **AUTHORIZE AND INSTRUCT**:

Section 1. The Director of the More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program to recruit the teachers necessary to expand the program; and

Section 2. The Superintendent of Public Instruction, working with and through local school system superintendents, to put into place the additional teachers and academic support programs needed to support the achievement of at-risk students in districts eligible for Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Funding and to keep class size ratios at current levels.

This Executive Order is effective July 20, 2007.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in the City of Raleigh, this twentieth day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.





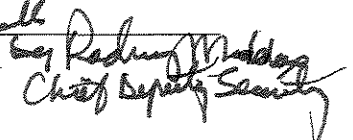
Michael F. Easley
Governor

ATTEST:



Elaine F. Marshall

Secretary of State


Chief Deputy Secretary